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Assistant Secretary's Daily Activity Report  
Office of Andean Affairs  
April 12, 2002

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**(C) Venezuelan Ambassador to Bolivia Resigns - Returning to Caracas April 12; President Quiroga's Statements Emphasizing Importance of Democracy/Rule of Law in Venezuela.**

- Venezuelan Ambassador to Bolivia Gonzalo Garcia Ordonez called Ambassador Rocha the afternoon of April 11 to tell the USG that he was resigning his post due to the events in Venezuela. He later made a public statement to reporters announcing his resignation, criticizing Chavez's government and recent GOV actions. Garcia told the Ambassador that he planned to fly to Caracas April 12. (Note: Garcia, an army major general, is seen as in the anti-Chavez camp.)
- While the GOB does not appear to have issued a formal statement, President Quiroga, speaking April 11 from the Rio Group Summit in San Jose, expressed "preoccupation" with the situation and told reporters that it had to be resolved in a democratic manner. (Hilton/La Paz 1382)

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(41)